

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for generating and managing production processing structure in a production management system of a factory implemented through a management computer that makes instructions to produce a product and manages production information and terminal computers disposed at production line of the factory, comprising:

a. registering means for, when structure of the factory comprising at least a name for identifying the factory, a name for identifying the product to be produced at the factory or operation to be implemented at the factory, a name of the line in which the product is to be produced or the operation is to be implemented, and names of process points obtained by dividing the line, is inputted by a developer, hierarchically registering the names in a storage device of the management computer;

b. registering means for, when one of the terminal computers and devices to be used in the production or operation of the production line are identified by the developer, registering them as terminal devices in the storage device;

c. registering means for, when a minimum unit task or tasks for achieving the operation or processing to be executed in the respective process points from among [[the]] all minimum unit tasks prepared in advance and stored in a disk of the management computer, is selected and inputted in a sequence of execution for the respective process points by the developer, registering the minimum unit task or tasks in the storage device;

d. registering means for, when definition information that correlates the registered

terminal devices with the operation or processing to be implemented in each of processing steps is inputted by the developer, registering the definition information in the storage device; and

e. task execution means for, when the terminal computers of the terminal devices are activated, allowing the management computer to execute the registered minimum unit tasks based on the registered definition information to collect production record information of the product and to accumulate the collected production record information.

2. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the task execution means includes:

f. means for activating a control program controlling execution of the minimum unit tasks such that the control program calls for the minimum unit task to be executed next from among the minimum unit tasks registered in the sequence of execution;

and allows the management computer to execute the minimum unit tasks registered in the sequence of execution.

3. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

g. means for registering distribution format for respective distribution destinations to the registered terminal devices when production instruction information based on the production record information is to be distributed to the registered terminal devices;

and the task execution means allows the distribution destinations to distribute the production instruction information in accordance with the registered distribution format.

4. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

h. means for registering security information concerning use of the terminal devices in the management computer;

and the task execution means permits, when each terminal computer of the terminal devices is started up, the start up of the terminal computer, if the computer is operated by the user whose use is permitted by the registered security information.

5. (Currently Amended): A method of generating and managing production processing structure in a production management system of a factory implemented through a management computer that makes instructions to produce a product and manages production information and terminal computers disposed at production line of the factory, comprising the steps of:

a. hierarchically registering, when structure of the factory comprising at least a name for identifying the factory, a name for identifying the product to be produced at the factory or operation to be implemented at the factory, a name of the line in which the product is to be produced or the operation is to be implemented, and names of process points obtained by dividing the line, is inputted, the names in a storage device of the management computer;

b. registering, when one of the terminal computers and devices to be used in the production or operation of the production line are identified, them as terminal devices in the storage device;

c. registering, when a minimum unit task or tasks for achieving the operation or

processing to be executed in the respective process points from among ~~[[the]]~~ all minimum unit tasks prepared in advance and stored in a disk of the management computer, is selected and inputted in a sequence of execution for the respective process points, the minimum unit task or tasks in the storage device;

d. registering, when definition information that correlates the registered terminal devices with the operation or processing to be implemented in each of processing steps is inputted, the definition information in the storage device; and

e. allowing, when the terminal computers of the terminal devices are activated, the management computer to execute the registered minimum unit tasks based on the registered definition information to collect production record information of the product and to accumulate the collected production record information.

6. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 5, wherein the step e includes:

f. activating a control program controlling execution of the minimum unit tasks such that the control program calls for the minimum unit task to be executed next from among the minimum unit tasks registered in the sequence of execution;

and allowing the management computer to execute the minimum unit tasks registered in the sequence of execution.

7. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, further including the step of:

g. registering distribution format for respective distribution destinations to the registered

Amendment
Serial No. 10/531,428
Attorney Docket No. 052412

terminal devices when production instruction information based on the production information is to be distributed to the registered terminal devices;

and the step e allows the distribution destinations to distribute the production instruction information in accordance with the registered distribution format.

8. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, further including the step of:

h. registering security information concerning use of the terminal devices in the management computer;

and the step e permits, when each terminal computer of the terminal devices is started up, the start up of the terminal computer, if the computer is operated by the user whose use is permitted by the registered security information.